

REMARKS

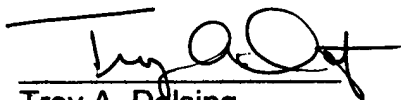
In the outstanding Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the Examiner stated that Applicants' proposed Amendment, filed on 3/13/06, did not include the appropriate payment of excess claims fees. In this Reply, Applicants hereby cancel claims 15-20. Therefore, the same number of independent claims (3) and dependent claims (17) are now pending in the application as were in the application as filed. Applicants, therefore, submit that no excess claims fees are due. If this is incorrect, Applicants request that Examiner notify Applicants of any necessary additional fees so that Applicants can submit such fees in a timely manner.

In the outstanding Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the Examiner noted that each claim had not been provided with the proper status identifier. In this Reply, Applicants have provided a status identifier for each claim. Claims 1-20 are Canceled, and claims 21-40 are New.

Applicants respectfully submit that these modifications to the original Amendment place the Amendment in the proper form for review by the Examiner and request that the Examiner enter the Amendment, as modified in this Reply.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 7, 2006


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